

College for All Act

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-Wash.)

“In this country, we tell our students that college is really important, but then we don’t do enough to make it an affordable, accessible reality for anyone who wants to pursue it. That’s why AAUP and the AFT helped launch the New Deal for Higher Education this year. The College for All Act will address this problem, making college free for most students, incentivizing states to make their own investments in public higher education, supporting faculty, and focusing new resources on improving the educational experience of students,” **said Randi Weingarten, President of American Federation of Teachers.** “I thank Sen. Bernie Sanders, Rep. Pramila Jayapal and all the co-sponsors for introducing the College for All Act, and I look forward to working with Congress and the Biden administration to truly make real the promise of higher education for all who want it.”

“All Americans — Black and white, Native and newcomer, Hispanic and Asian alike — deserve the opportunity to pursue their dreams and fulfill their true potentials. Many times, higher education is the key to unlocking that American Dream, and yet for too long, the cost of college has been out of reach for too many. Lowering the cost of college is one of the many ways that we can address the systemic racism and the racial wealth gap that plagues this country,” **said NEA President Becky Pringle.** “That’s why the National Education Association has worked with Sen. Bernie Sanders on the College for All Act. While broad-based debt cancellation will provide much needed relief for numerous Americans, it does not solve the college affordability crisis for those who are about to enter into higher education. We have to reverse the divestment in higher education and shift the burden of cost away from individuals and families.”

“Successful transition into adulthood is an essential measure of well-being for children and youth,” **said Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson, President & CEO, Children’s Defense Fund.** “With 6 in 10 American jobs requiring some education beyond high school, our children will not thrive without these doors being open wide. Children’s Defense Fund is pleased to support the College for All Act of 2021 to make economic mobility accessible for all children and families.”

“Education and training are critical to economic mobility. Unfortunately, in recent decades, we’ve seen the associated costs skyrocket, putting these essential tools outside the reach of many working class Americans trying to get ahead,” **said Everett B. Kelley, National President, American Federation of Government Employees.** “AFGE is proud to endorse this proposal by Sen. Sanders to address this issue and make public colleges and trade schools tuition and debt-free for working families. Making education and skills training more affordable will not only help working class Americans, it will help us all build a stronger, more resilient economy.”

“The College for All Act goes a long way to addressing the systemic inequality that characterizes both everyday life in the U.S. and our system of higher education,” **said John Jepsen, President, UE Local 896/COGS.** “Cost is the greatest barrier to higher education, and this creates a two-tier society: those who can afford the expensive education required to access earning power, political

power and status, and everyone else. The College for All Act will address this unequal access that defines higher education in the United States.”

“The skyrocketing cost of college is preventing workers and our families from pursuing our dreams,” **said Sara Nelson, international president of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA.** “The College for All Act would be transformative for our country, opening pathways to opportunity for millions of aspiring students, including Flight Attendants and our families. We strongly support this bill, and encourage the Biden administration to fight for it and to forgive the existing student debt that’s an anchor around the necks of millions of workers and holding back our economy.”

“We are thrilled to endorse the College for All Act. The movement for tuition-free college recognizes that today, the vast majority of students and families, especially underserved students, parenting students, and those from minoritized backgrounds, need help affording college,” **said Dr. Sara Goldrick-Rab, Founder of the Hope Center for College Community and Justice in Philadelphia and Professor of Sociology and Medicine at Temple University.** “This bill creates a durable federal-state partnership, invests in HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs, and will move us toward a higher education system that finally meets the needs of #RealCollege students.”

“In a society that values equity, getting an education shouldn’t mean assuming a six-figure tab to pay for it. Yet, student loan debt has become a national calamity, one that is destroying millions of lives and is crippling our economy,” **said Ana Maria Archila, Co-executive Director of the Center for Popular Democracy.** Senator Sanders’ “College for All” Act offers a critical solution to this ongoing crisis by providing working families — particularly those of color who have historically been saddled with this burden — a path to higher education that’s tuition free. Center for Popular Democracy is proud to support this legislation and all steps being taken to achieve education, racial and economic justice for everyone.”

“Every day millions of students have to decide whether to buy groceries, save for rent, or pay for their tuition” **said Max Lubin, Co-Founder & CEO of Rise.** “Under President Biden’s plan introduced by Senator Sanders into Congress today, students would no longer have to make that excruciating choice. Students could focus on learning and launching a career instead of struggling with basic needs and crippling student loan debt. Thousands of Rise students have spoken out in support of this bill, and we look forward to rallying supporters nationwide to enact it as soon as possible.”

Endorsements

Unions:

American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE)
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
American Federation of Teachers (AFT)
Association of Flight Attendants-CWA (AFA-CWA)
National Education Association (NEA)
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America (UE)
United Farm Workers (UFW)
New York Taxi Workers Alliance (NYTWA)
AFT-Vermont
Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA)

National groups:

18 Million Rising
Action Center on Race and the Economy
Alliance for Youth Action
American Association of University Professors
American Friends Service Committee
American Medical Student Association
Badass Teachers Association
Blue Future
Center for Law and Social Policy
Center for Popular Democracy
Children's Defense Fund
Community Change Action
Council for Opportunity in Education
Demand Progress
Demos
Gravel Institute
Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice, Temple University
IfNotNow
Journey for Justice Alliance
Justice Democrats
March for Our Lives
MoveOn
NAACP
National Council for Community and Education Partnerships
National Domestic Workers Alliance
Network for Public Education
NextGen America

Our Revolution
People's Action
Public Citizen
Progress America
Progressive Democrats of America
Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES)
Rise
South Asian Americans Leading Together
Social Security Works
Student Action
StudentDebtCrisis
Student Voice
Sunrise Movement
Swipe Out Hunger
UltraViolet
Working Families Party

State and local groups:

18by.Vote
Alliance for Quality Education
Alliance of Rhode Island Southeast Asians for Education
America's Islamic Radio
Appalachian Indivisible
Asociación de Mujeres Progresistas
Black Leaders Organizing for Change
ChangeTN
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Texas
Fields Freelance
Forward Montana
GenUp
Housing and Economic Rights Advocates
Hudson County Progressive Alliance
Indivisible George Coalition
Indivisible GA-04
Indivisible Long Island
Indivisible South Shore Long Island
Long Island Activists
Long Island Progressive Coalition
Long Island Social Justice Action Network
Michigan State University College Democrats
Michigan Student Power
Mississippi Votes
Mississippi Young Democrats
New Era Colorado

New Hampshire Youth Movement
New Hour for Women and Children Long Island
New Jersey-08 for Progress
New Jersey Communities United
New Jersey Working Families Alliance
New York Communities for Change
New York Progressive Action Network
NY-02 Indivisible
North Country chapter of New York Progressive Action Network
NoCap
Ohio Student Association
One Pennsylvania
Our Revolution Nashville and Middle Tennessee
Our Wisconsin Revolution
Pennsylvania Stands Up
Progressive East End Reformers
Progressive Democrats of Hudson County
Reclaim Philadelphia
Reclaim Rhode Island
Rise Michigan
Suffolk Progressives
Washington Student Association
Women's Diversity Network
You Power Purpose
Young Long Island for Justice
Young Progressives of UW-Madison
Young Professionals of Long Island
Uptown Progressive Action chapter of New York Progressive Action Network
Urban Triage
Zero Debt Massachusetts